

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Marc Maria Leo Jan LAFAILLE

Attn: PCT Branch

Application No. New U.S. National Stage of PCT/BE03/00072

Filed: November 29, 2004

Docket No.: 121807

For: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR PRINTING OBJECTS

**SUBMISSION OF THE ANNEXES TO THE
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Attached hereto is a translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/409). The attached translated material replaces pages 17, 19 and 20 of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



William P. Berridge
Registration No. 30,024

Thomas J. Pardini
Registration No. 30,411

WPB:TJP/emt

Date: November 29, 2004

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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Claims.

- 1.- Method for printing objects, whereby these objects
5 (15) are provided with a multi-layered print, characterized in that to this aim, on one hand, two or more layers of printing medium (10-11-12), which at least partially are situated one above the other, are provided on a support carrier (13) and, on the other hand, these
10 layers (10-11-12) are simultaneously transferred onto the object (15) to be printed by bringing said carrier (13), together with the layers of printing medium (10-11-12) present thereon, and the object (15) into mutual contact.
- 15 2.- Method according to claim 1, characterized in that in between the application of two or more layers of printing medium (10-11-12), and possibly after the application of the last layer of printing medium (12), one or more of said layers (10-11-12) are subjected to a curing
20 treatment, preferably by means of an exposure to ultraviolet radiation or by means of heating.
- 3.- Method according to claim 2, characterized in that a
25 partial curing is provided.
- 4.- Method according to claim 2 or 3, characterized in that at least two layers (10-11) are subjected to a curing treatment and that the curing takes place in a selective manner, such that, when curing the second layer
30 (11), little or no further curing of the first layer (10) will take place.
- 5.- Method according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in that the carrier (13), preceding the
35 application of the layers of printing medium (10-11-12), is cleaned.

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AMENDED CLAIMS

[Received by the International Bureau on 23 September 2003 (23.09.03)
original claim 1 amended; remaining claims unchanged]

1. Method for printing objects, whereby these objects (15)
5 are provided with a multi-layered print, characterized
in that to this aim, on one hand, two or more layers of
printing medium (10-11-12), which at least partially are
situated one above the other, are provided on a supple
carrier (13) and, on the other hand, after that at least
10 one of said layers (10-11-12) has been subjected to an
at least partial curing treatment, these layers (10-11-
12) are simultaneously transferred onto the object (15)
to be printed by bringing said carrier (13), together
with the layers of printing medium (10-11-12) present
15 thereon, and the object (15) into mutual contact, and by
removing the object (15) from the carrier (13) after the
transfer of said layers (10-11-12) is completed.

12) finally, in said printing device (14) simultaneously are transferred onto the object (15) to be printed.

5 11.- Method according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in that, during the transfer of said layers (10-11-12) onto the object (15), the carrier (13) is brought into contact with means forming a support for the carrier (13) around the object (15) to be printed and, more particularly, provide for a clamping of the carrier
10 (13).

12.- Method according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in that during the transfer of said layers (10-11-12) onto the object (15), the carrier (13) is
15 brought into contact with a chamber-shaped part (34) which is open at one side (33), such that the open side (33) is sealed by the carrier (13) and a chamber is formed in which a pressure can be created with the purpose of assisting in pressing the carrier (13) around
20 the object (15).

13.- Device for printing objects, more particularly according to the method of any of the preceding claims, characterized in that it at least consists of, on one
25 hand, means, more particularly processing stations (3-4-5-6-7-8-9), for successively providing two or more layers of printing medium (10-11-12) on a supply carrier (13), and, on the other hand, an actual printing device (14), where said layers (10-11-12) are transferred onto the
30 object (15) to be printed, by bringing said carrier (13), together with the layers of printing medium (10-11-2) present thereon, and the object (15) into mutual contact.

14.- Device according to claim 12 or 13, characterized in
35 that it comprises a moving, more particularly rotatable, table (25), in which several carriers (13) are or can be

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provided, such that, by systematically rotating this table (25), the carriers (13), as aforementioned, end up in the respective processing stations (3-4-5-6-7-8-9) and the actual printing device (14).

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15.- Printing device for printing objects, of the type whereby printing medium (10-11-12) is transferred onto an object (15) by bringing a carrier (13), provided in a holder (16) and being provided with printing medium (10-11-12), into contact with the object (15), such that the printing medium (10-11-12) is transferred from the carrier (13) onto the object (15), characterized in that the printing device (14) comprises means (32) which grip, more particularly, clamp, the carrier (13) within the circumference determined by the location where the carrier (13) is connected to the holder (16).

16.- Printing device for printing objects, of the type whereby printing medium (10-11-12) is transferred onto an object (15) by bringing a carrier (13), which is provided with printing medium (10-11-12), into contact with the object (15), such that the printing medium (10-11-12) is transferred from the carrier (13) onto the object (15), characterized in that the printing device (14) comprises a chamber-shaped part (34) which is open at one side (33), whereby the open side (33) thereof can be sealed by a carrier (13) presented or present in the printing device (14), such that the chamber-shaped part (34) forms a closed chamber in which a pressure can be created with the purpose of assisting in pressing the carrier (13) around the object (15).

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